

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	18383	Agenda Number	8.
Meeting Date:	9/27/2012		Department:	Solid Waste Services
Subject				
Approve administrative rules for City Code Chapter 15-6 (Solid Waste Service) regarding curbside collection, implementation of the Universal Recycling Ordinance, basic standards for service providers, and clarified definitions and repealing all previously existing rules for Chapter 15-6.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
N/A				
Fiscal Note				
A fiscal note is not required.				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:				
For More Information:	Jessica Kingpetcharat, ARR, 974-7678; or Tammie Williamson, ARR, 974-1997; or Bob Gedert, ARR, 974-1926			
Boards and Commission Action:	On August 8, 2012, the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) voted 7-0 to support adoption of the revised Administrative Rules for implementing Chapter 15-6 of the Austin City Code.			
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

This action seeks Council approval of Administrative Rules for Chapter 15-6 Solid Waste Services which include updates to standards for curbside collection, implementation of the Universal Recycling Ordinance, basic standards for service providers, and clarified definitions. These rules will supersede and take the place of any previously existing rules for Chapter 15-6. Any previously existing rules are repealed.

BACKGROUND

On November 4, 2010 the Austin City Council adopted the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) as part of Austin's Zero Waste goal to achieve a 90 percent reduction in per capita landfill waste disposal by 2040. The URO requires properties of a certain size to develop a recycling program that establishes collection of at least five materials (paper, plastic resins PETE and HDPE, aluminum, cardboard, and glass), educates employees and tenants, and submit a Recycling Plan to Austin Resource Recovery. The Administrative Rules outline the specific and measurable actions required by affected properties and service providers. In addition, the Administrative Rules for 15-6 were last implemented in 1999 and included outdated references to the Department's general operational and collection standards that are inconsistent with current practices. The new rules also include updated collection and set out standards for Department customers.

PROCESS

Over the past 18 months, Austin Resource Recovery staff conducted 20 public meetings with stakeholders to consider language for the Administrative Rules, potential impacts to the business community, and practical implementation steps to meet our Zero Waste goal. Staff also sent 55 emails to an average of 990 registered stakeholders. The emails inviting participation and informing stakeholders of the next steps in the process were successfully delivered 10,627 times to representatives of 530 businesses and organizations in the Austin-area.

Staff has worked closely with businesses, industry associations, commercial property managers, community activists, and local non-profits to develop these recommended Administrative Rules that are inclusive, reflect current practices, and represent a commitment to continuous improvement as we move collaboratively towards Zero Waste. The stakeholder process resulted in the following changes to the Administrative Rules for Chapter 15-6: Sections 1-7, including all subsections, have been updated to reflect changes to the Department's procedures related to recycling, landfill trash and organics collection. Section 8 has been added to include rules related to implementation of the Universal Recycling Ordinance for affected properties. Section 9 has been added to consolidate requirements for the Solid Waste Service Providers related to the Universal Recycling Ordinance. Definitions have been updated and expanded to reflect the Department's Zero Waste goal.

As required by Ordinance 20120628-012 adopted on June 28, 2012, all Administrative Rules for Chapter 15-6 must be presented to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) for recommendation and approved by the City Council.

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

ZWAC met on August 6, 2012, and by a vote of 7-0, unanimously supported adoption of these Administrative Rules for Chapter 15-6 with minor edits and clarifications.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of these Administrative Rules for Chapter 15-6 which includes modifications requested by the ZWAC at the August 6th meeting (see Attachment A).